



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

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Fire Department Official Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement

This month, Jerry Cromer, Jr., pled guilty to theft from an organization receiving federal funds. Cromer served as treasurer of the Aldie, Va., Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) from 1995 through 2012. From 2000 to 2012 Cromer admitted he intentionally embezzled approximately \$645,000 that belonged to the AVFD. He used these fire department funds to pay his mortgage, credit card bills, repair his automobile and other personal expenditures.

16 People Arrested in Drug Conspiracy, Accused of Distributing Heroin and Other Drugs in Area

In an investigation by the FBI/Metropolitan Police Department [Safe Streets Task Force](#), sixteen people were indicted on conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute heroin, cocaine, PCP, marijuana and methamphetamines. A Prince George's County, Md., police officer was also charged with one count of tampering with documents or proceedings and one count of unlawful notice of electronic surveillance. The drugs were distributed in the Potomac Gardens and Hopkins housing complexes in Southeast Washington, D.C., as well as in Prince George's County and locations in Northern Virginia. [Read detailed press release.](#)



This FBI investigation was referred to as Five Aces, a reference to cheating by stacking the deck

Former Program Manager Sentenced for Bribery Scheme

This month, Kerry Khan, a former program manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), was sentenced to more than 19 years in prison for his leadership of a ring of corrupt government officials and government contractors who engaged in bribery and kickbacks and who stole over \$30 million through inflated and fictitious invoices. To date, a total of 15 people and one company have pled guilty to charges in the largest domestic bribery and bid-rigging scheme in the history of federal contracting cases. Khan was paid, directly and indirectly, over \$12 million through the bribery scheme. The government contracts were awarded from 2007 until 2011 through the USACE and the Department of the Army. Before his arrest, Khan was attempting to steer a planned \$1 billion federal contract to a favored contractor in return for payments. [Read the full story.](#)

Man Sentenced for Terrorist Solicitation and Firearms Offense

Following a joint FBI Pittsburgh and WFO investigation, Emerson Begolly was sentenced to 102 months in prison for soliciting others to engage in acts of terrorism within the U.S. and for using a firearm during and in relation to an assault on FBI agents. Begolly was an active administrator on the Ansar al-Mujahideen English Forum, which is an Islamic extremist internet forum. Begolly solicited jihadists to use firearms, explosives and propane tanks against targets such as police stations, post offices, Jewish schools and daycare centers, military facilities, train lines, bridges, cell phone towers and water plants. Following the reported shootings in Northern Virginia at the Pentagon and the Marine Corps Museum in October 2010, Begolly posted a comment online that praised the shootings and hoped the shooter had followed his previous postings encouraging similar acts of violence. In December 2010, Begolly solicited violence by posting a manual on how to manufacture a bomb. Days later, FBI agents were assaulted by Begolly as they attempted to prevent him from reaching a loaded handgun.

Owner of Real Estate Company Pleads Guilty to Mortgage Related Bank Fraud

Mark Dain pled guilty this month to conspiracy to commit bank fraud and admitted responsibility for fraudulent loan applications involving 22 different properties, which resulted in more than \$7 million in losses to financial institutions. Between 2006 and 2008, Dain was part owner of a Woodbridge, Va., company which specialized in the marketing of undeveloped, sub-divided lots located in North and South Carolina. The company marketed these lots to purchasers in Northern Virginia and assisted the buyers in their efforts to obtain financing. Dain admitted participation in a scheme to falsify loan applications by inflating gross monthly income, the value and/or the existence of real estate and the value of the liquid assets held by the loan applicant. Dain faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison when he is sentenced this October.

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